

# COMMITTEE CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

City of Middletown

100 Riverview Center, Recreation Department

February 4, 2014

6:00 PM

**1. Members Present:** Marty Knight/Chairperson, Keith Vinci, Marie Hurley, August DeFrance, Elderrean Paules, Phil Cacciola, Joseph Carta (via phone)

**Absent:** Karen Nocera, Richard Pelletier, Steven Shapiro, Abigail Nolan – Youth in Government

**Staff Present:** Debbie Stanley, Acting Director Recreation & Community Services

**Youth in Government Present:** None

**General Public:** None

**2. Meeting Called to Order:** Called to order at 6:05pm.

**3. Public Hearing:** none

**4. Approval of Minutes:** *A motion to approve the meeting minutes of Jan.7, 2014, was made by August DeFrance and seconded by Keith Vinci. The motion was passed.*

## Departmental Reports:

- August DeFrance discussed the new Senior Center. They are making great progress. They are ahead of schedule for opening next September.
- Keith Vinci and Karen Nocera went to look at River's Edge condominium entrance and foyer per Joe Carta's request. To enter the foyer of the building you have to go through a small glass entryway. The power doors open however the second door is a very heavy glass door. Also, the power doors create a vacuum which makes opening the glass door even more difficult. Joe Carta explained that a friend that is in a wheelchair resides there and actually broke the bottom of the door with her feet. Phil Cacciola mentioned that a door cannot be more than 5 pounds of pressure. A discussion ensued. Phil also mentioned that a complaint could be made to Fair Housing in Hartford. Keith Vinci suggested writing a letter to the condominium association.
- Marie Hurley discussed the Matabaset Project meeting on January 28, 2014. The designer of the building, Mr. McGuire, gave a presentation which showed a 60% completion of the design. It had to be completely redesigned. The cost started out at 24.2million and is now down to 16.5 million. In order to get these reductions, the following adjustments were made. The pumps were supposed to be inside the building initially but the pumps will now be outside which would make the building smaller. There is also a dry pit which went from 18 feet wide to 16 feet wide. There is still much more designing that has to be completed. A discussion ensued.
- Ellie Paules stated that Monarca Place is completely full and everyone is getting along well.
- Marty Knight told the Committee that Steve Shapiro's term ends April 30, 2014. The Committee has to be balanced by political party. Marty Knight made an official complaint to the Public Works Department because the sidewalks were not shoveled. Dr. Thomas and Dr. Sousa do not shovel their sidewalks therefore making it impossible for Marty to navigate to the YMCA.

## Old Business

- The audible walk signals are still on Old Business because there is no way of knowing where the buttons are on the polls. This is a problem. A discussion ensued.

**New Business:**

**Miscellaneous:**

- August DeFrance said that he will be bringing information to the next meeting regarding a new program from Microsoft for those that are visually impaired. A discussion ensued.

**Adjournment:** *A motion of adjournment was made by Marie Hurley and was seconded by August DeFrance. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bruni Runte